

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 21

By Naifeh

A RESOLUTION to express our deepest pride and unwavering support for all Tennesseans serving in the War on Terrorism.

WHEREAS, Our nation was founded by individuals who were willing to sacrifice themselves and put aside their personal needs and concerns in order to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have gone above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, Thousands of Tennesseans have continued this time-honored tradition of volunteerism and altruism through service in the Tennessee Army National Guard, the Tennessee Air National Guard, the U.S. Army Reserves, the U.S. Naval Reserves, and other units of the U.S. Armed Forces; these individuals selflessly serve with courage and gallantry and deserve to be recognized for heroism in the line of duty and model citizenship in our American society; and

WHEREAS, As accentuated by the tragic events and cowardly acts of terror inflicted upon the United States on September 11, 2001, we live in an era in which the fabric of international diplomacy is complex and densely interwoven; the terrain is treacherous, and our nation must act judiciously and with earnest resolve in order to protect the American way of life

and the institution of democracy, and to make the world safe for the advancement of personal and political freedom for the expanse of the diverse human family; and

WHEREAS, In recent months, our Armed Forces have nobly shouldered the responsibility of ridding the international community of the scourge that is terrorism, beginning with Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, and continuing to this day, as they actively maintain a vigilant presence throughout the world, guarding against those who would seek to destroy our way of life and demolish our hard-earned freedoms; and

WHEREAS, To date, ten Tennessee Army National Guard Units have been activated, including the 3-115 Field Artillery Battalion out of Memphis/Covington, Company C-46th Engineering Battalion out of Paris, the 777th Maintenance Company out of Nashville/Lewisburg, the 267th Military Police Company out of Dickson, the 269th Military Police Company out of Murfreesboro, the 730th Quartermaster Company out of Johnson City, the 776th Maintenance Company out of Elizabethton/Mountain City, Company B, 230th Engineering Battalion out of Lobelville, Det. 1, C, 230th Engineering Battalion out of Camden, and the 146th Medical Company out of Alcoa; two additional Tennessee Army National Guard Units, the E-107 Aviation out of Smyrna, and the 130th RAOC out of Tullahoma, have been alerted for activation; and

WHEREAS, Joining their fellow Guardsmen in active duty, six Tennessee Air National Guard Units have been deployed, including the 118th Airlift Wing out of Nashville, the 134th Air Refueling Wing out of Knoxville, the 228 CCS/119 CCS out of Knoxville, the 164th Airlift Wing out of Memphis, the 241st EIS out of Chattanooga, and the 119th Command and Control Squadron out of Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, The exemplary roster of mobilized U.S. Army Reserve Units includes Det. 1, 4206th U.S. Army Hospital out of Chattanooga, the HHC, 678th Personnel Service Battalion out of Nashville, Det. 4, 330th Combat Support Hospital out of Millington, the 3397th Garrison Support Unit out of Chattanooga, the 2145th Garrison Support Unit out of Nashville, Det. 1, 450th Military Police Company out of Nashville, the 3410th Military Intelligence Detachment out of

Millington, Det. 2, 3397th Garrison Support Unit out of Chattanooga, Det. 1 and 2, 330th Combat Support Hospital out of Millington, and the 639th Transportation Company out of Kingsport; and

WHEREAS, Also eager to unselfishly represent the United States overseas are servicemen and servicewomen from the U.S. Naval Reserve Centers in Memphis, Nashville, Knoxville, and Chattanooga; 183 brave individuals were deployed or identified for deployment during the 2001-2002 federal fiscal year, and thus far in the 2002-2003 federal fiscal year, 40 more men and women have been called upon to represent our country; and

WHEREAS, These intrepid men and women from Tennessee are unselfishly paying the price of freedom for their friends, families, and all of us as they sacrifice their time, safety, and personal desires; if war disrupts the peace and prosperity of American life, these individuals will enter the fray on our behalf, boldly and without hesitation or complaint, just as they have left behind the enduring warmth of family and home; and

WHEREAS, We extend our most heartfelt support and empathy to the families of our servicemen and servicewomen now on active duty; we stand in solidarity with them, offering space in our hearts and moments in our days to remember their loved ones serving so far from home; and

WHEREAS, Though we cannot adequately express our appreciation to the courageous men and women of our Armed Forces who are fighting to preserve the blessed freedom that is inseparable from our American heritage and ideals, it is most appropriate that we should honor them to the full extent of our ability, as they make untold and innumerable sacrifices to preserve the liberties we enjoy today and that our progeny will hopefully continue to cherish for generations to come; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we express our stalwart support for and express our deepest pride in the servicemen and servicewomen from Tennessee as they defend our state, our country, and the entire world in the War on Terrorism, extend to them our sincere hopes for a swift and

diplomatic restoration of peace with justice and honor, and offer our fervent prayers for the safe return of our soldiers to their homes and families.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we also express our sincere and concerned support for and extend our best wishes to the families of the Tennessee Army and Air National Guard personnel, the U.S. Army and Naval Reserves, and regular soldiers of the U.S. Armed Forces from Tennessee, and we join these families in their hopes and prayers for the safe and speedy return of their loved ones.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.